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Flynt is convinced the attempt on his life was the work of an assassination team with ties to the government. The motive: to silence his inquiry into the JFK killing. ~~Even on his sickbed, still on~~

In addition to his business problems (all was not grim: Hustler's sales continued strongly), Flynt was becoming consumed by assassination conspiracy theories. With veteran assassination buffs Mark Lane and comedian Dick Gregory as his mentors, Flynt embarked on a campaign to solve the murder of John F. Kennedy. He offered a $1-million reward for information leading to the solving of what he thinks was a conspiracy involving the FBI and CIA to kill the president. He published a million copies of a tabloid on the subject. He bankrolled a seven-person investigative team, with Lane at its head, to follow leads around the country.

And then there were the legal battles. He expected a Cincinnati conviction for publishing obscenity to be overturned on appeal, but he faced trials in Atlanta and a rural Georgia town of 7,800 named Lawrenceville.

Traveling With Bodyguards

Flynt began worrying about his personal safety as his legal fights and religious conversion put him on the nation's front pages. To his friends, he acknowledged the possibility of assassination. In addition to a traveling retinue of aides who double as bodyguards, he began carrying a .38 Special.

A spent shell was reported found near the door of an abandoned building across the street from where Flynt fell, wounded, though police spokesmen decline to verify the description of the weapon involved. A clerk at the Sherwin Williams paint store next door says that until five or six years ago the building held a chiropractor's office. Its windows are shattered, doors hang from the hinges. The rear exit leads conveniently through an overgrown back yard to a parking lot. In short, the stone building could have been an assassin's lair.

"An identical modus operandi applied in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King," says Mark Lane, who has spent 14 years studying political assassinations. Since the man who has been financing his latest efforts was shot Monday, Lane has begun conducting his own investigation into the shooting. Only 12 seconds to fire, exit the abandoned building and flee from the hidden parking lot, notes Lane. As police and citizens converge on the scene of the wounded publisher and his lawyer, the gunman escapes easily in the opposite direction, Lane postulates.

Yesterday, two days after the shooting, Lane held a press conference in a motel room. While newspapers have suggested Flynt's volatile combination of porn and religion could well have motivated an attack on his life, Lane wanted to raise the assumption he shares with the Flynts: that the government wants to silence this monied rabble-rouser who suggests Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone.

Lane did not specifically accuse the FBI or CIA with complicity, but claimed there has been "a deliberate effort to interfere with and destroy the investigation" he has been conducting under Flynt's auspices for a month.

When reporters from the magazines, newspapers and TV stations present expressed skepticism, Lane replied that, "The news media has always been wrong," referring to the mainstream coverage of political assassinations. The Flynt shooting had the earmarks of a sophisticated operation, he argued: "It doesn't look like amateur night in Lawrenceville, Ga."

JFK ACT RELEASE

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

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